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FBI Files On JFK Opened

WASHINGTON (AP) — Just two hours after John F. Kennedy was killed, FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover had concluded that Lee Harvey Oswald was the assassin and that Oswald was a "mean-minded individual . . . in the category of a nut," according to FBI files released today.

"I called the attorney general at his home and told him I thought we had the man who killed the President down in Dallas," Hoover wrote at 4 p.m. on Nov. 22, 1963, as Kennedy lay dead in a Dallas hospital.

Hoover's memos relating a minute-by-minute account of his actions following the assassination were part of 40,001 pages of files made public by the FBI as it opens its full records on the investigation of the assassination.

The files, weighing about a half ton, were rich with the details of tragedy and drama as scores of citizens told the FBI of their sorrow and their suspicions — and in some cases, their hatred of the Kennedy family.

But the material provided no immediate or astounding new insight about the mysteries still lingering from the assassination. Nor did it immediately resolve the arguments about the various conspiracy theories proposed by some students of the case.

The Warren Commission, which conducted the official re-

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view of the assassination and the way the FBI and others investigated it, concluded that Oswald was the murderer and that he acted alone. Oswald was shot to death in the Dallas police station before he could be tried, and his killer, Jack Ruby was convicted of murder and died of cancer.

Oswald's Cuban connections have figured in some conspiracy theories, and the newly released files show that the FBI checked out at least some clues concerning Cuba.

A Los Angeles informer told agents the names of two San Juan, Puerto Rico, men who allegedly had knowledge of "activities between Cuba and the United States." FBI agents in San Juan then were instructed to interview the men.

In another episode, FBI headquarters obtained and translated a letter written in Spanish and mailed from Havana to Oswald in Dallas. The letter, addressed to "Friend Lee," and postmarked six days after the assassination, spoke of a financial deal and praised Oswald's marksmanship. But the initial scrutiny of the files did not indicate whether this was a meaningful clue or whether it was the work of a headline-seeker.

Hoover's memos and notations reflected his concern for finding Kennedy's killer. But they showed he had other interests in mind as well, chiefly protecting the image of the FBI.

The new files show that some citizens wrote to suggest that the sloppy FBI security measures were to blame for Kennedy's assassination and Oswald's murder. Hoover quickly responded that the Secret Service, not the FBI, was responsible for presidential protection and that Oswald was in the custody of Dallas police, not the FBI, at the time he was shot.

On the day of the assassination, Hoover wrote his first memo for his files at 1:43 p.m. EST, only moments after the news of the shooting had been flashed around the world. He

said that he had broken the news to the president's brother, Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy, and that Robert "asked that we do whatever we could."

The president was pronounced dead at 2 p.m. EST, but Hoover failed to get the word immediately. The director must have suffered an embarrassing blow to his ego when he called Robert at 2:10 p.m. "to advise him that the president was in very, very critical condition. The attorney general then told me the president had died."

But two hours later, Hoover was able to report to Robert Kennedy that Oswald had been apprehended near the Texas School Book Depository where the fatal shot was fired.

"I told the attorney general that we have a case on Oswald as he has been involved in the Fair Play for Cuba Committee. . . . The attorney general asked if Oswald is a Communist. I said that he is not a Communist but has Communist leanings."

By this time, bureau files had churned out the four-year-old reports of Oswald's announcement in Moscow that he was defecting to the Soviet Union and the records of his return to the United States with his Russian-born wife Marina in 1962.